

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending and allowed. The Examiner amended claims 1, 6, 11, 15, 21, 27, and 29 in the Examiner's Amendment that accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed August 22, 2006. The Examiner in an interview with the Applicant's attorney on August 15, 2006, had indicated the proposed changes were to correct minor 112 informalities. Applicant's attorney had approved the changes, but upon close inspection following receipt of the written Examiner's Amendment, found that the change went beyond correcting an informality and actually changed a step in certain claims listed below. A further amendment is therefore needed to correct the affected claims. Applicant asserts no further search is required because no references were found that raise any issues and the change is a mere correction of one step in the affected claims back to the original intent of those claims as filed. The claims remain patentable at least for the reasons stated in the Examiner's Amendment. Applicant could not have presented the correction earlier because the discrepancy was discovered only upon inspection of the Examiner's Amendment received with the Notice of Allowance.

The claims recited in the present Amendment have status indicators that show the original claims as (original), the claims amended in the Examiner's Amendment that are not amended here as (previously presented), and the claims amended in the Examiner's Amendment and further amended here as (currently amended). This clarification is provided in an abundance of caution because this is an unusual case of having claim amendments following an Examiner's Amendment.

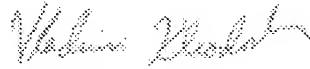
Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 21, 27, and 29 in the same manner, in particular amending the following element: "...the time period being a longer of than an initial time period and an extension time period, ...". The Examiner had suggested a correction because these claims as filed originally recited the time period being "~~the~~ longer of an initial time period and extension time period..." to correct the antecedent basis issue of the claim lacking an antecedent for "the longer". The step the controller performs in the phrase at issue is to keep the outlet valve open for either the initial time period or the extension time period, and selecting whichever of these two time periods is longer. The phrase as recited in the Examiner's Amendment would leave the outlet valve open for the sum of the two durations, not the greater duration, and is therefore incorrect. Support for this clarification is found in paragraphs 30-31 of the specification.

Applicant believes these claims as amended here overcome both the Examiner's original antecedent basis issue, and show the correct step being performed. Applicant requests these claims be amended and the application continue to issuance.

Summary and Conclusion

Applicant requests the claims be amended as indicated and the application continue to issuance. Applicant will pay the issue fee in due course. No fees are believed due at this time, however, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account number 12-0913 with reference to our attorney docket number (27726-95077).

Respectfully submitted,



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